

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A server device, comprising:
 - a first storage unit storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;
 - a receiving unit receiving information from a user; and
 - a sending unit sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said information received, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines,
 - at least one of said sub-applications being executable alone, wherein
 - said first storage unit stores said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,
 - ~~said a~~ said a sub-application currently being executed stores the ID of a sub-application that is to be utilized executed next, and
 - when said receiving unit receives the ID of said sub-application, said sending unit sends, based on said ID received, the relevant sub-application stored in said first storage unit, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.

2. (Original) The server device according to claim 1, wherein
said sending unit first sends the sub-application that is executable alone.

Claims 3 - 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The server device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said sub-applications includes the ID that identifies that the relevant sub-application is the last one.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The server device according to claim 1, further comprising a second storage unit storing prescribed information for each said sub-application.

9. (Original) The server device according to claim 8, wherein said prescribed information includes an ID of said sub-application and price information corresponding thereto.

10. (Original) The server device according to claim 9, wherein said price information corresponding to said sub-application that is being sent in the second or later place is set lower than said price information corresponding to said sub-application that is being sent in the first place.

11. (Original) The server device according to claim 8, wherein said prescribed information includes a number of times of utilization of said sub-application.

12. (Original) The server device according to claim 11, further comprising a fifth storage unit storing information of a discount rate corresponding to said number of times of utilization.

13. (Original) The server device according to claim 12, further comprising a setting unit setting a price of the sub-application to be transferred next, based on the number of times of utilization of prescribed said sub-application that is stored in said second storage unit and the discount rate corresponding to the relevant number of times of utilization that is stored in said fifth storage unit.

14. (Original) The server device according to claim 12, further comprising a setting unit setting a price of the sub-application to be transferred in the second or later place, based on the number of times of utilization of the sub-application being sent in the first place that is stored in

said second storage unit and the discount rate corresponding to the relevant number of times of utilization that is stored in said fifth storage unit.

15. (Original) The server device according to claim 8, wherein said prescribed information includes information about presence/absence of advertisement.

16. (Original) The server device according to claim 15, wherein when the sub-application for which said stored information about presence/absence of advertisement indicates the presence of the advertisement is to be sent, said sending unit sends the relevant sub-application with corresponding advertisement data attached thereto.

17. (Original) The server device according to claim 8, wherein said prescribed information includes an application name corresponding to said sub-application.

18. (Original) The server device according to claim 1, further comprising a third storage unit storing user information.

19. (Original) The server device according to claim 18, wherein said user information includes user ID and password for identification of a user.

20. (Original) The server device according to claim 19, further comprising a first determination unit determining, when said receiving unit receives user ID and password, whether

said received user ID and password match the user ID and password stored in said third storage unit.

21. (Original) The server device according to claim 20, further comprising a prohibition unit prohibiting a sending operation of said sending unit when said first determination unit determines that the user IDs and the passwords mismatch.

22. (Original) The server device according to claim 18, wherein said user information includes an application utilization history.

23. (Original) The server device according to claim 22, further comprising:
an extract unit extracting appropriate advertisement data stored in said first storage unit based on said utilization history stored; and
an advertisement data sending unit sending said advertisement data extracted.

24. (Original) The server device according to claim 18, wherein said user information includes credit balance information of a user.

25. (Original) The server device according to claim 24, further comprising a comparison unit comparing said credit balance information of a user and price information of the sub-application required by the user,

wherein said sending unit sends said sub-application when said comparison unit determines that said credit balance information is at least equal to said price information.

26. (Original) The server device according to claim 1, further comprising a fourth storage unit storing prepayment information.

27. (Original) The server device according to claim 26, wherein said prepayment information includes prepaid ID and password.

28. (Original) The server device according to claim 27, further comprising a second determination unit determining, when said receiving unit receives prepaid ID and password, whether said received prepaid ID and password match the prepaid ID and password stored in said fourth storage unit.

29. (Original) The server device according to claim 26, wherein said prepayment information includes value information.

30. (Original) The server device according to claim 1, further comprising a charging unit charging a user a price of said sub-application every time said sending unit sends said sub-application to the user.

31. (Original) The server device according to claim 30, further comprising a confirmation unit confirming whether sending of said sub-application from said sending unit is completed,

wherein said charging unit charges for said sub-application when said confirmation unit confirms completion of the sending.

32. (Currently Amended) A server device, comprising:

a first storage unit storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;

a receiving unit receiving information from a user;

a sending unit sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said information received, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines; and

a charging unit charging a user a price of said sub-application every time said sending unit sends said sub-application to the user, wherein

said first storage unit stores said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,

~~said a sub-application includes currently being executed~~ stores the ID of the sub-application that is to be ~~utilized~~ executed next, ~~and~~

when said receiving unit receives the ID of said sub-application, said sending unit sends, based on said ID received, the relevant sub-application stored in said first storage unit, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.

33. (Original) The server device according to claim 32, further comprising a confirmation unit confirming whether sending of said sub-application by said sending unit is completed,

wherein said charging unit charges for said sub-application when completion of the sending is confirmed by said confirmation unit.

34. (Original) The server device according to claim 32, further comprising:
a second storage unit storing user ID and password for identification of a user;
a determination unit determining, when said receiving unit receives user ID and password, whether the received user ID and password match the user ID and password stored in said second storage unit; and

a prohibition unit prohibiting a sending operation of said sending unit when said determination unit determines that the user IDs and passwords mismatch.

35. (Original) The server device according to claim 34, wherein
said second storage unit further stores credit balance information of a user, and
said sending unit sends said sub-application required by the user when said credit balance information is at least equal to price information of the relevant sub-application.

36. (Withdrawn) A terminal device, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving a sub-application as a portion of a divided application;

an execution unit executing said sub-application received; and

a request unit requesting sending of a next sub-application according to a result of execution of said received sub-application by said execution unit, based on information about the sub-application to be utilized next that is stored in said received sub-application.

37. (Withdrawn) The terminal device according to claim 36, wherein when advertisement data corresponding to said sub-application is sent along with said sub-application, said receiving unit receives the advertisement data as well.

38. (Withdrawn) The terminal device according to claim 36, further comprising a sending unit sending a reception complete signal when said receiving unit completes a receiving operation of said sub-application.

39. (Withdrawn) An application communication system comprising the server device according to claim 1 and the terminal device according to claim 36.

40. (Currently Amended) An application communication method, comprising:

a first storing step of storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;

a receiving step of receiving information from a user; and

a sending step of sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said received information, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines,

at least one of said sub-applications being executable alone, wherein

said first storing step includes the step of storing said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,

~~said sub-applications each include~~ a sub-application currently being executed stores the ID of the sub-application that is to be utilized executed next, ~~and~~

said sending step includes the step of, when the ID of said sub-application is received in said receiving step, sending the relevant sub-application stored in said first storing step based on said received ID, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.

41. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, wherein said sending step includes the step of sending the sub-application executable alone first.

Claims 42 - 44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The application communication method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of said sub-applications includes the ID indicating that the relevant sub-application is the last one.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, further comprising a second storing step of storing prescribed information for each said sub-application.

48. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, wherein said prescribed information includes an ID of said sub-application and price information corresponding thereto.

49. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 48, wherein said price information corresponding to said sub-application that is to be sent in the second or later place is lower than said price information corresponding to said sub-application that is being sent in the first place.

50. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 47, wherein said prescribed information includes a number of times of utilization of said sub-application.

51. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 50, further comprising a fifth storing step of storing information of a discount rate corresponding to said number of times of utilization.

52. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 51, further comprising a setting step of setting a price of the sub-application that is to be utilized next, based on the number of times of utilization of prescribed said sub-application that is stored in said second storing step and the discount rate corresponding to the relevant number of times of utilization that is stored in said fifth storing step.

53. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 52, further comprising a setting step of setting a price of the sub-application that is to be sent in the second or later place, based on the number of times of utilization of the sub-application being sent in the first place that is stored in said second storing step and the discount rate corresponding to the relevant number of times of utilization that is stored in said fifth storing step.

54. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 47, wherein said prescribed information includes information about presence/absence of advertisement.

55. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 54, wherein when the sub-application for which said stored information about presence/absence of advertisement indicates the presence of the advertisement is being sent, said sending step

includes the step of sending said sub-application with corresponding advertisement data attached thereto.

56. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 47, wherein said prescribed information includes an application name corresponding to said sub-application.

57. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, further comprising a third storing step of storing user information.

58. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 57, wherein said user information includes user ID and password for identification of a user.

59. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 58, further comprising a first determining step of determining, when user ID and password are received in said receiving step, whether said received user ID and password match the user ID and password stored in said third storing step.

60. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 59, further comprising a prohibiting step of prohibiting a sending operation by said sending step when said first determining step determines that the user IDs and passwords mismatch.

61. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 57, wherein said user information includes an application utilization history.

62. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 61, further comprising:

an extracting step of extracting, based on said utilization history stored, appropriate advertisement data stored in said first storing step; and

an advertisement data sending step of sending said extracted advertisement data.

63. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, wherein said user information includes credit balance information of a user.

64. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 63, further comprising a comparing step of comparing said credit balance information of a user with the price information of a sub-application required by the user,

wherein said sending step includes the step of sending said sub-application if said credit balance information is at least equal to said price information as a result of comparison by said comparing step.

65. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, further comprising a fourth storing step of storing prepayment information.

66. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 65, wherein said prepayment information includes prepaid ID and password.

67. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 66, further comprising a second determining step of determining, when prepaid ID and password are received in said receiving step, whether said received prepaid ID and password match the prepaid ID and password stored in said fourth storing step.

68. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 65, wherein said prepayment information includes value information.

69. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 40, further comprising a charging step of charging a user a price of said sub-application every time said sub-application is sent to the user in said sending step.

70. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 69, further comprising a confirming step of confirming whether sending of said sub-application is completed in said sending step,

wherein said charging step includes the step of charging for said sub-application when completion of the sending is confirmed by said confirming step.

71. (Currently Amended) An application communication method, comprising:

a first storing step of storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;
a receiving step of receiving information from a user;
a sending step of sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said information received, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines; and

a charging step of charging a user a price of said sub-application every time said sub-application is sent to the user in said sending step, wherein

said first storing step includes the step of storing said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,

~~said sub-applications each include~~ a sub-application currently being executed stores the ID of the sub-application that is to be utilized executed next, and

when said receiving unit receives the ID of said sub-application, said sending unit sends, based on said ID received, the relevant sub-application stored in said first storage unit, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.

72. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 71, further comprising a confirming step of confirming whether sending of said sub-application is completed in said sending step,

wherein said charging step includes the step of charging for said sub-application when completion of the sending is confirmed by said confirming step.

73. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 71, further comprising:

a second storing step of storing user ID and password for identification of a user;

a determining step of determining, when user ID and password are received in said receiving step, whether said received user ID and password match the user ID and password stored in said second storing step; and

a prohibiting step of prohibiting a sending operation by said sending step when said determining step determines mismatch of the user IDs and passwords.

74. (Original) The application communication method according to claim 73, wherein said second storing step includes the step of further storing credit balance information of a user, and

said sending step includes the step of sending said sub-application required by the user when said credit balance information is at least equal to price information of the relevant sub-application.

75. (Withdrawn) An application communication method, comprising:

a receiving step of receiving a sub-application as a portion of a divided application;

an executing step of executing said sub-application received; and

a requesting step of issuing a send request for a next sub-application according to a result of execution by said executing step, based on information of the sub-application to be utilized next that is stored in said received sub-application.

76. (Withdrawn) The application communication method according to claim 75, further comprising a sending step of sending a reception complete signal when a receiving operation of the sub-application is completed in said receiving step.

77. (Withdrawn) An application communication method performing communication of application using the server device according to claim 1 and the terminal device according to claim 36.

78. (Withdrawn) An application communication method performing communication of application using the server device according to claim 32 and the terminal device according to claim 36.

79. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording an application communication program for causing a computer to perform:

a first storing step of storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;

a receiving step of receiving information from a user; and

a sending step of sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said information received, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application

or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines,

at least one of said sub-applications being executable alone, wherein

said first storing step includes the step of storing said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,

~~said sub-applications each include~~ a sub-application currently being executed stores the ID of the sub-application that is to be utilized ~~executed next, and~~

when said receiving unit receives the ID of said sub-application, said sending unit sends, based on said ID received, the relevant sub-application stored in said first storage unit, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.

80. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording an application communication program for causing a computer to perform:

a first storing step of storing an application divided into a plurality of sub-applications;

a receiving step of receiving information from a user;

a sending step of sending at least one of said sub-applications, according to said information received, to any of a plurality of terminals at which the user performs the application or said at least one of said sub-applications, said plurality of terminals being connected to the server device through communications lines; and

a charging step of charging a user a price of said sub-application every time said sub-application is sent to the user in said sending step, wherein

said first storing step includes the step of storing said sub-applications by relating them with IDs for identification thereof,

~~said sub-applications each include~~ a sub-application currently being executed stores the ID of the sub-application that is to be utilized executed next, ~~and~~

when said receiving unit receives the ID of said sub-application, said sending unit sends, based on said ID received, the relevant sub-application stored in said first storage unit, and

said sub-applications have a certain order for execution, and an object of the application before being divided into said plurality of sub-applications is achieved by executing said sub-applications in said certain order.